

SENATE BILL 2780

By Burchett

AN ACT to name the campus at the Senator Ben Atchley State Veterans Home in Knox County in honor of Gerald D. Clarke.

WHEREAS, this general assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to a gentleman who has dedicated his life to helping his fellow veterans and their families, namely Mr. Gerald D. Clarke of the Del Rio community of Cocke County; and

WHEREAS, a member of America's greatest generation, Mr. Clarke patriotically served his country in the United States military during World War II; he was wounded in the line of duty and was awarded the Purple Heart in recognition thereof; and

WHEREAS, since his honorable discharge from the military, Mr. Clarke has worked with purpose and conviction to assist his fellow veterans and their families in numerous roles, including his present service as Chaplain for American Legion Post #2 in Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, as Commander of the United Veterans of East Tennessee, Mr. Clarke was instrumental in the location of the new state veterans home in Knox County; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the campus of such facility should bear his name; for Gerald D. Clarke is truly a veteran's veteran; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the campus at the Senator Ben Atchley State Veterans Home in Knox County is hereby designated the "Gerald D. Clarke Campus" in recognition and appreciation of Mr. Clarke's lifetime of selfless service to his fellow veterans.

SECTION 2. The department of finance and administration is directed to erect or affix suitable signs at appropriate locations on the campus of the Senator Ben Atchley State Veterans Home in Knox County designating such campus as the "Gerald D. Clarke Campus."

SECTION 3. This act shall become operative only if the cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs is paid to the department of finance and administration from non-state funds within one (1) year of the effective date of this act. Such payment shall be made prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the person or entity paying for such signs within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, an amount equal to the difference in such costs shall be remitted to the department in non-state funds within thirty (30) days of the sponsoring person or entity receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.